



February, 25th 2022

Members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for serving Connecticut in the effort to better our environment. As human caused pressures on the environment continue to shift new threats and innovative ways to address those threats emerge. I am writing **in opposition of SB 116** because of one current threat that is destroying the balance of Connecticut's precious water bodies: aquatic invasive plants.

Invasive plants, non-native plants that have been proven to cause severe environmental harm, have been a priority of the State of Connecticut for decades. Connecticut General Statutes [§22a-381a](#) through [§22a-381d](#) task Connecticut's Invasive Plant Council to create an updated Connecticut Invasive Plant List every 2 years. The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, of UConn's Cooperative Extension Service, provides helpful information for citizens and land care professionals on the best management practices to manage Connecticut's Invasive Plants.

Upon examination of the evidence of how invasive plants corrupt Connecticut's environment there is no sound argument for neglecting invasive plant infestations. The invasive plant Japanese Knotweed, which often finds its preferred habitat along our state's rivers and lakes, grows through and destroys roadbeds, curtain drains, septic systems and foundations. Hydrilla and Eurasian Watermillfoil easily break into small sections, clinging to boat hulls and propellers allowing it to spread rapidly and to be ineffectively controlled mechanically. All of these aquatic invasive plants require the use of herbicides, utilized through integrated pest management for effective control.

SB 116 would hinder the effective control of invasive plants throughout Connecticut water bodies. Well meaning citizens, property associations and municipalities could end up causing more harm to the environment than good by requesting applicators to apply herbicides on a specific date well in advance of weather predictions. In tandem the legislation proposed in this bill forces the applicator to pick a date without having the ability to predict the weather on the date of application. Many products that are used to effectively control aquatic invasive plant infestations require the applicator to identify an application date that is optimal for effective control, no precipitation and limited to no wind. If a date, even a series of dates as wide as 14 days is picked in advance of application and all are not optimal, application cannot occur. Unscrupulous applicators may decide to apply on the posted date causing the potential of spray drift during windy days and run-off, well water intrusion and diluted application on precipitation days in turn violating federal law. All of these factors would allow aquatic invasive plants to continue to proliferate while causing untenable harm to Connecticut's environment.

In order to protect Connecticut's environment, oppose SB 116 and tackle invasive plants.

Christian Allyn, Founder and Owner
Invasive Plant Solutions
North Canaan, CT